

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2014*

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. RV 405—RV 406—missed due to weather delays; had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

## HONORING ROVETA F. SIMMONS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Roveta F. Simmons.

Mrs. Simmons was born in Memphis, Tennessee. She is married to James A. Simmons of Chicago, IL. They have two children: Michael A. Walker, 37 and Jamal L. Walker, 24.

In 1999 Mrs. Simmons received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science from Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, VA. That same year she received her Collegiate Professional License for the Commonwealth of Virginia Elementary Education, kindergarten through fifth grade.

Mrs. Simmons is the Director of Little Rock Child Development Center. She is assigned to the 19th Force Support Squadron, Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. She is the director over the Infant Toddler Center.

The Little Rock Child Development Centers both are NAEYC accredited programs. The CDC maximizes availability and affordability of child care to include weekly, hourly, surge and emergency care, offering early intervention and provides the highest quality childcare that meets the development needs of each child and enables military and Department of Defense (DoD) parents to fulfill their military missions.

Mrs. Simmons began her Department of Defense career as a Palace Acquire Intern with the Department of the Air Force in June 2004. She completed her two year Child Development Specialist Internship at Randolph AFB, TX and was assigned to Keesler AFB, MS as the assistant director.

After two years she was promoted to Director of Keesler Child Development Center. She has worked tirelessly to create a well oiled machine. The Keesler CDC turned a failing budget around—from a \$70,000.00 loss to a \$12,000.00 profit year to date. Mrs. Simmons also served on active duty for the United States Air Force for 21 years where she retired at the rank of MSgt. Her last assignment was the Superintendent, Wing Operations Center, 402 TFW Holloman AFB, NM.

Among her many recognitions she has received the Exemplary Civilian Service Award, the Meritorious Service Medal, 1 Bronze Oak Leaf, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit 3 Bronze Oak Leaf, Air Force Good Conduct Medal 1 Silver and 1 Bronze leaf. She has also received the National Defense Medal 1 Bronze, a Service Star, Air Force Overseas Long Tour, Air Force Longevity Ribbon 4 Bronze, and the NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Roveta F. Simmons for her years of dedication and hard work.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2014*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Tuesday, July 8, 2014. Weather in the Midwest delayed my flight to Washington, DC until late that night. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H.R. 4263 (roll No. 369) and in favor of H.R. 4289 (roll No. 370).

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2014*

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district due to travel cancellations caused by inclement weather and I missed the votes on Monday, July 14, 2014. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 405, H.R. 4195—The Federal Register Modernization Act and “yea” on rollcall No. 406, H.R. 5029—The International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2014.

## OCCUPIED CYPRUS—FORTY YEARS OF ILLEGAL OCCUPATION, ETHNIC CLEANSING, AND DESTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS SITES

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2014*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark 40 years since the illegal occupation of the Republic of Cyprus by the government of Turkey. These forty years have been marked by tragedy for the Greek Cypriots, and by criminal guilt for the Turkish government. In July 1974 the Turkish army began its sneak invasion of the island—it was the beginning of a tragedy and outrage that continues today. At least one hundred eighty thousand Greek Cypriots were forced to flee the north. They lost all their property—shockingly, even today none of them have been allowed to return to their property. The Turkish government effectively “ethnically cleansed” the north of the island, where only a few hundred Greek Cypriots live in small enclaves, and even they are not allowed to worship freely.

During these forty years over five hundred Christian religious sites have been demolished, destroyed, or desecrated, for example turned into casinos or warehouses. Eighty stolen churches have been converted into mosques. Artifacts from churches and cemeteries continually show up on the international black market.

Mr. Speaker, in the current discussions about reunifying the island, the United States

must stand firm on the complete withdrawal of Turkish military forces, respect for universally-recognized human rights for all Cypriots everywhere on the island, and an independent, unified government.

## RECOGNIZING KEVIN LITTLE AND KURTIS MOORE

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2014*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank two outstanding men from my district for their service and sacrifice to share their time and talents to help others. Kevin Little and Kurtis Moore from Osage Valley Electric, volunteered for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Foundation in Haiti as part of the Caracol Community Electrification Project. They spent two weeks in northern Haiti building and upgrading more than a mile and a half of power lines to help communities there receive affordable, safe and reliable electricity.

Mr. Little and Mr. Moore even helped connect homes to electricity for the first time around Tru-du-Nord. To date, more than 4,800 consumers in the northern part of Haiti have access to electricity. Some homes now have TV antennas, a few towns have water treatment plants, doctors can provide better care to patients, and residents have opened their own small businesses like Internet cafés.

Electricity is a critical element in improving the quality of life. In Haiti less than 20 percent of the people there have regular access to electricity. I am blessed to represent Kevin Little and Kurtis Moore in Congress, grateful for their hard work and commitment to the community, and I wish them the best in all their future endeavors.

## CONGRATULATORY LETTER TO THE CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER DETROIT

**HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 15, 2014*

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Chinese Association of Greater Detroit on 22 years of service and community outreach.

Your work has been important for fostering better relations between Metro-Detroit, China, and the Chinese-American community. In the globalized world in which we live, these relations are important for improving Michigan's economy. It is obvious from your work in the soup kitchen, to your relationship with the Metro-Detroit Chinese School that you are committed to making Michigan a better place. I am pleased that such a great organization has found its home in Michigan's 11th Congressional District.

Thank you for everything you have done to serve Metro-Detroit and the Chinese-American community.